

DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY ARE BEYOND THE PALE, AND ...

## Welch Believes Not Even the Republicans About the Reversal of American Policy He

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the seventh in a series of articles on the John Birch Society, a Massachusetts-based semi-secret organization that is named for a Macon man who was killed by the Chinese communists in 1945.

By GEORGE DOSS

Robert Welch makes it clear in his "Blue Book" that he set up the John Birch Society because he felt that even the Republican politicians he likes couldn't accomplish the reversal of policy he wants and because existing right-wing groups were too loose and ineffective.

As for Democrats, he apparently considers most of them too far beyond the pale to bother with, but he does discuss, though not by name, President Kennedy, avoiding a charge that he, as Welch claims of Eisenhower, is a Communist, but making it clear he thinks the new president is even worse.

At the time of formation of the John Birch Society in December, 1958, he wrote, "At present we are in the position of trying to defeat a disciplined well-armed expertly-commanded army with a collection of debating societies."

No matter which one of the "anti-Communist or anti-socialist groups you select, the chances are that the good citizens who put it together are friends of mine" and they "almost certainly are dedicated patriots who deserve our gratitude, and our praise," Welch said. "But let's be realistic . . . we've got to offer something that people are willing to die for. And only over long periods of time, and then in rare instances, do you generate and maintain loyalty for an organization that is even in the same league with loyalty for an individual."

He rejects the idea that Americans for Democratic Action, which he says has exercised "terrific influence," is an exception on the other side, saying the ADA, "whether a lot of its members know it or not, is the same as an arm of the Communist Party."

As for doing the job he wants done through a political party, Welch says, "Now there is one thing to which any intelligent patriotic American might as well make up his mind at once. That is that the thorough and painstaking organization and work at the precinct levels, which wins elections, is not going to be done and can't be done by the Republican Party."

"It can be done in one state, under the personal leadership and management of a Barry Goldwater or his own campaign. It might have been done in California by Bill Knowland, if he could have got himself disconnected from his 'modern-Republican' duties as minority leader of the Senate in time, and if he had known what he was up against. But it cannot be done nationally by the present Republican Party, nor by anything that can come out of the present shattered Republican Party in the foreseeable future."

That doesn't mean that the Republicans can't win elections, he says, but "it does mean that, especially if the Republican Party then (in 1960) stands nationally for any Americanist principles whatsoever, it cannot win unless it has strong help and backing from forces outside the straight political organization—such as the Democratic Party has on the other side in Walter Reuther's Committee on Political Education."

He says that not even the Democratic Party, "which, for all of its bitter internal splits, remains a far more disciplined and unified organization for campaign purposes than the Republican Party, can carry out any such precinct activities precisely directed at a national aim."

Welch, who himself ran unsuccessfully for Republican nomination lieutenant governor of Massachusetts some years ago and is a former director and vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said until a few months before the 1958 organization of the John Birch Society "I was still giving some thought to starting some quiet but strong non-political organizing for political purposes right in Massachusetts, with a view to either capturing the Republican nomination for the Senate from (Sen. Leverett) Saltonstall in 1960 or running as an independent as circumstances then indicated." But he rejected the idea as unworkable.

Welch's "Blue Book" reference to Kennedy is contained in his discussion of the "amoral man," first among the Communists and then, "... on our own side of the fence, among the millions who either are, or pretend to be, non-Communists, the amoral man, who has no slightest inner concern with right or wrong, is one of the greatest causes of our constant retreat, and one of the greatest dangers to our survival. And he doesn't wear any label."

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DATE 3-30-61

RE: John Birch Society

AT FILE NO.

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"He usually lives up to the appearance of excellent florists, because it is expedient for his purposes, and you will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church. But as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States; and he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world, by his well-publicized speeches against Chiang Kai-shek or in favor of the Algerian rebels.

"Or an amoral man, as the head of a great so-called Republic, may have no slightest scruples or concern about its fate or the fate of other nations, in the face of Communist conquest and of the cruel tyranny of their rule. And any similarity of characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

Welch does refer to Kennedy by name in one point in the "Blue Book" where he says he can "foresee possibilities where every one of us would work for . . . and vote for" Richard M. Nixon in 1960 "despite what I have said [about Nixon]—as if, for instance, he were the Republican candidate against Walter Reuther or John Reuther's stooge, Jack Kennedy, on the Democratic ticket." For this reason, he said, he did not intend to put his remarks about Nixon on a tape recording of the "Blue Book" for use in organizational meetings for the John Birch Society.

He said that "up to the time the nomination was stolen from Bob Taft in 1952, it was still possible to have saved our country, from the immediate Communist danger, anyway, primarily by political action." Now, however, while believing "We shall have to use politicians, support politicians, create politicians, and help the best ones we can find to get elected," Welch is "thoroughly convinced . . . that we cannot count on politicians, po-

litical leadership, or even political action except as a part of something much deeper and broader, to save us."

\* \* \*

As for present top Republican prospects, Welch says, "I think Nelson Rockefeller is definitely committed to trying to make the United States a part of a one-world socialist government, while I don't think Nixon is committed to anything other than the career of Richard Nixon. In that, he is neither better nor worse than most other politicians, merely smarter."

Nixon is "one of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous, and slipperiest politicians that ever showed up on the American scene. He can sit in Washington one night and convince the best ball-carrier they have, and spend four hours in the Waldorf Towers the next day convincing (Gen. Douglas) MacArthur and Herbert Hoover that he is their man. He can use the tremendously overrated and overpublicized but actually highly cautious part he played in the Alger Hiss exposure, to hang onto the hopeful loyalty of the vigorous anti-Communists, at the very time when he is insinuating himself into the good graces of the Left by quietly knifing (Sen. Joseph) McCarthy. . .

"What good would such a man be to us, even as President, unless outside forces and accomplishments made it opportunistic and expedient for him to ride an anti-Communist wave which those outside forces had created? As for being a leader, the sad

truth, hard for many hopeful and wishful conservative Republicans to realize, is that Richard Nixon, a most engaging personality and clever politician, has never been a leader in connection with any event or development, or at any stage in his career.

"But for the dirtiest deal in American political history, participated in if not actually engineered by Richard Nixon in order to make himself Vice-President (and to put Warren on the Supreme Court as part of that deal), Taft would have been nominated at Chicago in 1952. It is almost certain that Taft would then have been elected President by a far greater plurality than was Eisenhower, that a grand rout of the Communists in our government and in our midst would have started, and that we wouldn't even be in this mess that we are supposed to look to Nixon to lead us out of."

Despite all this, however, Welch says Nixon would be "far better" than Nelson Rockefeller.

I think Nixon could become a very patriotic anti-Communist if we could create circumstances in which it would be smart politics to be one; whereas I think Nelson Rockefeller would fight for further movements towards the internationalist left. . .

In another move against the Republicans, Welch advocated in the "Blue Book" and the John Birch Society now has as one of its top projects a campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren. Welch said he thought "we could get the names of a hundred outstanding leaders from the South and many from the North on the letterhead" for such a "front" organization.

Some of the nation's most conservative organizations are among those criticized by Welch. In discussing a move to put the National Review, Dan Smoot Report and other right-wing publications in doctors' offices, he turns thumbs down on the American Medical Association.

" . . . while the American Medical Association has now been 'took,' Welch says, "to the extent that we could not count on any direct help there, the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, still under aggressively anti-socialist leadership, has fifteen thousand members, most of whom are not only highly respected leaders in their profession, but are also actively concerned as individuals in stopping the socialist advance."

#### THE MAHON (CL.) NEWS

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# Founder Senator Barry

# THE MACON

Established 1884

PEYTON ANDERSON, Publisher

JOE PARHAM

BERT STRUBY

LAMAR PAI

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of eight articles on the controversial John Birch Society.

By GEORGE DOSS

Robert Welch, founder and ruler of the John Birch Society, damns many Republican and Democratic governmental leaders as Communists or worse, in his view, but in Sen. Barry Goldwater he finds one to his liking.

"I'd love to see him president of the United States, and maybe some day we shall," Welch writes of the Arizona Republican senator in his "Blue Book" or manual of principles and purposes of the Birch Society, named for a Macon man killed by Chinese Communists in 1945.

Goldwater, Sen. James O. Eastland and several others have given mild support to Welch and the Birch Society in statements, but as criticism has mounted and more of the story has been told across the country Goldwater has acknowledged several points of basic disagreement with Welch and a spokesman for Eastland's Senate Internal Security subcommittee has said the subcommittee has sent out no letter on the subject.

It was revealed last week that Eastland was sending out a form letter in reply to letters which read as follows:

"The John Birch Society about which you asked is known to be a conservative anti-Communist organization. However, the subcommittee cannot endorse any organization officially. We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization."

Welch has been less complimentary in discussing Eastland's committee. In outlining action planned for the John Birch Society in the "Blue Book," he said one course would be "to start shocking the American people," and in this connection he included the following paragraph in reference to the Eastland subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee:

"No committee we might set up, of course, would have the subpoena privileges or other Congressional powers of [the late Sen. Joseph] McCarthy, which makes our job far more difficult. And it would, for a while anyway, be vain to count on either of the remaining investigating committees of the House or the Senate. Their files are already bulging with important evidence about individual Communists which has not been used and is unlikely to be used. The Communist political pressures have become so strong and so devastating, and the Supreme Court's decisions have so hamstringing the actions of these committees, that they hardly dare even go through the motions of hearings of this kind any more."

Chairman Francis E. Walter of the House Un-American Activities Committee, which has been asked by a Wisconsin congressman to investigate the Birch Society, said Thursday he had no information indicating the committee should investigate, although he said the committee has received many letters complaining that the Society is "Un-American." Most of them allege wrongs against individuals, Walter said, and they have recourse in the civil courts.

Goldwater said "I don't see how anybody can be against" the avowed purpose of the Birch Society to fight Communists, and that "I know the type of people it has attracted in my own community of Phoenix, and I am impressed with them. They are the kind we need in politics."

He added, however, that he disagrees with certain of Welch's statements, saying he was "wrong" in calling former President Eisenhower a Communist—"I saw that statement three or four years ago and told him [Welch] then he was wrong." Goldwater said he also disagrees with Welch's and the Birch Society's move to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, who he said he believes arrived at his decision honestly. But he said the John Birch Society is not as far to the right as Americans for Democratic Action is to the left.

While Welch concludes that the work the John Birch Society was set up to do—reverse the political, economic and social trends of the country as the long term goal while combatting Communism—could not be done through a political leader, he said in the "Blue Book," "Now the one man who comes nearest to measuring up to all the needs and qualifications, whom we see on the political horizon at the present time, is Barry Goldwater. I know Barry fairly well. He is a great American. As I foresaw a year ago how the Reutherite Left would concentrate national strength and resources on the Arizona campaign, and how important money from outside Arizona would be toward enabling Goldwater to meet that attack adequately, I took it on myself to become a one-man finance committee for him in Massachusetts. I raised around two thousand dollars in my state and sent it to him early in 1958."

"Barry Goldwater has political know-how and the painstaking genius to use that know-how with regard to infinite details. He is a superb political organizer, and inspires deep and lasting loyalty. He is absolutely sound in his Americanism, has the political and moral courage to stand by his Americanist principles, and in my opinion can be trusted to stand by them until hell freezes over."

Then Welch sets out the reasons why he thinks there is not the "slightest chance of Barry Goldwater supplying the dynamic overall leadership needed to save this country for anybody to be president of"—the leadership which Welch himself is avowedly attempting to supply.

Goldwater, by the very circumstances of his political success, present prestige, and the expectations of his supporters, will inevitably think and move in terms of political warfare. Even if he personally should reach the point and the understanding of

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wanting to consider political action as just a part, no matter how important, of much broader overall action, how much chance do you think there is that his friends and supporters would let him step out of the strictly political role in which he has been so successful?

Suppose you feel that the political factor in the equation is so important that it outweighs all of the others. And that if we could get a man like Barry Goldwater nominated and elected President—or Bill Knowland or Bill Jenner or any one of a dozen others for that matter—by 1960 [the "Blue Book" was written in 1958] or even maybe by 1964—the power of the presidency in the hands of such a man would be enough to save our country.

"Do you think that by strictly political means and without the help of all of the other efforts on all the other fronts, there would be the slightest chance of bringing this about? That with the present shattered condition of the Republican Party, and the grip of the Leftists inside both parties on various pieces of those parties, there is going to be any slightest chance of getting a solid, courageous, uncompromising Americanist nominated by either party—unless there are huge compelling forces at work outside of the parties, which are not affected by the ubiquitous opportunism inside the parties? . . . We've been counting on that kind of salvation, and hence going steadily down the drain, for twenty years."

Welch's aims and methods have brought him into conflict with no less an authority and militant fighter of Communism than Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In his book, "Masters of Deceit," Hoover advised citizens to report any information about subversive activities to the FBI and emphasized, "Don't try to investigate yourself. Security investigations require great care and effort. The innocent must be protected as well as the guilty identified. That is the job for the professional investigator. Hysteria, witch hunts, and vigilantes weaken our internal security."

Hoover writes also that "identifying communists is not easy" and that for this reason "we must be absolutely certain that our fight is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation. . . . Too often I have seen

cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were fighting communism by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'communist' on anybody who happens to be different from them or to have ideas with which they do not agree."

Welch again seems to disagree with Hoover on the question of "civil rights" in his espousal of a familiar theme of staunch racial segregationists, rejected by Hoover with praise for the NAACP fight against Communist efforts at infiltration. Hoover says also that "one of the chief jobs of the FBI, fully as important as tracking down spies, is to protect the civil rights of the individuals."

Welch says, "The trouble in our Southern states has been fomented almost entirely by the Communists" to take over the country by inciting civil war if other efforts fail.

"It has been their plan, gradually carried out over a long period with meticulous cunning, to stir up such bitterness between whites and blacks in the South that small flames of civil disorder would inevitably result. They could then fan and coalesce these little flames into one great conflagration of civil war, in time, if the need arose."

"The whole slogan of 'civil rights,' as used to make trouble in the South today, is an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China."

As for the churches, where much of the community controversy resulting from John Birch Society chapters in many parts of the country has centered, Welch says that "fully one-third of the services in at least the Protestant churches of America are helping" the trend he deplors. "For the ministers themselves are not true believers in the Divine Names or the Divine History and Divine Teachings to which they give lip service, as they go through their conventional motions on Sunday mornings."

"Some have merely watered down the faith of our fathers, and of theirs, into an innocuous philosophy instead of an evangelistic religion. Some have converted Christianity into a so-called 'social gospel,' that bypasses all questions of dogma with an indifference which is comfortable to both themselves and their parishioners; and which 'social gospel' becomes in fact indistinguishable from advocacy of

the welfare state by socialist politicians."

"And some actually use their pulpits to preach outright Communism, often in very thin disguise if any, while having the hypocrisy as atheists to thank God in public for their progressive apostasy."

Welch's criticism of the churches is similar to that of J. B. Matthews, an associate editor of his American Opinion magazine, who resigned as chief investigator of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's Senate committee in 1953 after publication of an article in American Mercury in which he charged that clergymen were "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus" in this country.

Welch makes it clear that he leans heavily on Matthews, noting in the "Blue Book" that some information he was distributing about communism "although put together by such an amateur as myself, have been passed on by experts like J. B. Matthews as authentic." And he says that because his "opinion of various characters" has been proved to coincide with that of Matthews so that he knows he himself has a "fairly accurate nose" for spotting Reds. He says he also has "the benefit of J. B.'s files, almost incredible memory, and judgment built out of long experience."

The first man to bring public word of the John Birch Society to Macon, Gordon Hall of Boston, Mass., who spoke to the Macon Civitan Club on Feb. 10 on extremist groups on the far right which he said "badly muddy the water of public opinion," is attacked by Welch in the "Blue Book." It was Welch's charges against Hall which local members of the Birch Society sought to use to prevent him from speaking here.

Welch lumps Hall and John Roy Carlson, author of the book "Undercover" published in the 1940s, as "foilers for the Communist cause." Carlson's book exposed a number of extreme rightist and fascist groups, such as the German-American Bund, and those connected with them. Welch calls his book "libelous" and says it "viciously smeared many good American patriots."

Welch praises Dr. Medford Evans, who he says gave up his job as chief of security training for the Atomic Energy Commission to write a book exposing "traitors" and later was fired from Northwestern State College

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in Louisiana "for no other reason than his uncompromising stand against communism." This latter, Welch says, "can be shown conclusively to the satisfaction of any reasonable man, even a college professor." He proposed setting up as a "front" a "Committee to Protest the Firing of Medford Evans" and cites the fact that Evans' book sold only 2,600 copies as proof of the "effectiveness of the blanket of obfuscation, with which Communist influences have been able to keep the truth about their activities from being known."

The John Birch Society's council includes two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers and formerly included a third. Other members include Spruille Braden, former U. S. ambassador; T. Coleman Andrews, former internal revenue director; Clarence Manion, former

dean of the Notre Dame law school; Col. Laurence E. Bunker, former personnel aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; and Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III, USAF (ret.), former commander of the 14th Air Force in China and Capt. John Birch's superior.

Braden has said he doesn't agree with Welch's charge that former President Eisenhower was a Communist agent but that this in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters. "He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch, but added, "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

Letters from Braden and Andrews endorsing the John Birch Society are included in a recent booklet being distributed from the Belmont, Mass., headquarters.

A committee of endorsers is listed in the booklet with a note that it is "now in process of formation." Three Georgians are listed. They are Hugh H. Armstrong, Paul K. McKenney Jr.,

and R. Carter Pittman; the latter a Dalton lawyer, former president and official of the States Rights Council of Georgia which now is headed by Roy V. Harris of Augusta.

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# U.S. Keeps Its Eye on Birch Unit

## Sen. Dodd to Ask For Investigation

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy is concerned about the ultra-conservative John Birch Society, the Justice department reported Friday. But it declined to say whether he was investigating the semi-secret organization.

The statement came as Vice Chairman Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said he would raise the possibility of a Senate investigation of the self-styled anti-Communist group at the subcommittee's next meeting. He did not say he would push for an inquiry.

Rep. Don L. Short, D-N.D., called for a Justice department inquiry. Assistant Senate Republican Leader Thomas H. Kuchel, Calif., Thursday proposed that the Senate Government Operations Committee question Robert Welch, former candy manufacturer who founded the society.

### MANY INQUIRIES

A spokesman for Welch at the society's Belmont, Mass., headquarters said the founder had no comment on criticism of the group and demands for an investigation.

A Justice department spokesman said the attorney general's concern about the society was prompted by the "growing number of inquiries the Justice department has received" about the group. There was no elaboration on the brief statement.

But Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif., the first member of Congress to reveal that he belongs to the society, said he and Welch would welcome a congressional inquiry, "the more thorough, the better."

### DENIES FASCISM

Hiestand defended the organization as the best means of fighting the "Communist conspiracy." He conceded that some members might be extremists, but denied the society is a clandestine or Fascist group.

In New York, the American Civil Liberties Union defended the right of the Birch society to express its own opinions in a letter to Rep. Francis E. Walter, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

"Regardless of how extreme and distorted (the society's) views may be or how obnoxious they are to us or to the public at large, under the First Amendment, they have the right to be expressed free of government interference," the ACLU said.

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Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON  
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# Birch Unit Head Asks for Probe

## Eastland Receives Pledge Members Would Not Take 5th Amendment

BOSTON, April 1 (UPI) — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, sent a telegram to the Senate internal security committee Saturday asking for an official investigation of his organization.

Welch, in a telegram to Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the subcommittee, pledged that members would testify openly and "unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

THE REQUEST for an investigation came after the Justice Department reported in Washington that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was concerned about the ultra-conservative John Birch Society.

The society is named for an American missionary killed by the Chinese Communists shortly after the end of World War II. Founders of the society regard him as the first victim of the cold war.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., vice chairman of the Senate subcommittee said he would raise the possibility of a Senate investigation of the anti-Communist group. Other members of Congress pressed for an investigation.

EARLIER SATURDAY, Welch had no comment on criticism of his group and demands for an investigation. But this afternoon, a secretary who declined to answer any questions, telephoned United Press International to announce that Welch had asked for an investigation, "because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications."

"As many of our members as

your committee may wish will gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes and specific activities of the society," Welch told Eastland. "And we repeat our assurance made recently to the chairman of a committee in California that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

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## Pulse of the Public

### Atlantan Who Knew John Birch Blasts That Society for 'Besmirching' His Name

Atlanta—I wish to express my deep anger at the brazen effrontery of the ghouls who are using the name and memory of one of the noblest Americans of our generation to hide behind in creating another so-called patri-

otic organization, which actually is nothing less than a foul racket operated for the personal profit and aggrandizement of the organizers. Reference is made to the ultra-conservative, semi-secret organization—the John Birch Society.

I knew John Birch intimately. While he lived he was my best friend. I knew him for a devout, God-fearing Christian, whose chief trait was genuine modesty. He was motivated by a deep and consuming love of country, exceeded only by his Christian love for mankind.

A summa cum laude graduate of Macon's historic Mercer University, he was qualified for a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. At the age of 21 he served with unusual distinction as stated supply of the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Augusta.

He went to China as a missionary, but when war came he offered his considerable talents to his country and served as an intelligence officer. He had earned the rank of captain at the time of his assassination.

The record indicates he was most foully murdered by the Chinese Communists, while serving as the United States observer at the surrender of Japanese forces in northern China on August 25, 1945.

For this exemplary American—a walking example of Christian love, humility, and forbearance—to now have his name and memory besmirched by a slimy group of opportunists who preach hate, vilification and lies to gain their odoriferous reward is not only greatly disquieting to me, his close friend, but it must be also to all others who knew him for the kind of man he was.

The Atlanta Constitution, the Los Angeles Times, former Vice President Nixon and Sen. Milton R. Young (R-ND) are to be com-

mended for their public stand against the tactics of this society which seeks a million members and a million dollars.

JAMES FRITZ SALLEY

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-17-04 BY 60408/UC/90/ST

The Atlanta Constitution  
April 1, 1961  
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON  
RE:

AT File: 100-5857

See Bul.

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FBI - ATLANTA	



## "Main Street McCarthyites"

A CAREFULLY-researched, fully-documented series on the John Birch Society has been running in The News and winds up today. It has been a factual account of the history, objectives, motivation and methods of the John Birch Society, as expounded by the founder, a Massachusetts millionaire.

The facts have not been easy to come by. Secrecy within the Birch organization makes the Ku Klux Klan look like a bunch of chattering magpies. The discipline imposed by the founder, Robert Welch, is harsh. The Birch Society is composed of tough-minded members who, if they do not all accept Welch's contention that every United States President beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt was or is communist or an actual Communist, at least continue to pay \$24 a year (for men) or \$12 (for women) to follow the leadership of a man who subscribes to such beliefs.

FBI J. Edgar Hoover has said: "The job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen. This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action." And it was announced today that the Birch Society is a matter of concern to the attorney general.

Now, this being an editorial, we come to the opinion.

In our view, the John Birch Society, made up of self-styled dedicated patriots, is nothing but an organization of "Main Street McCarthyites."

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The Macon News  
Macon, Georgia  
March 31, 1961  
Editor: JOE PARHAM  
RE:

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Birch leader Welch is utterly irresponsible in his accusations of treason or near-treason and he offers no proof of his charges.

The effect of the Birch Society is to stifle free speech, suppress forthright opinion and spread fear and suspicion. Anyone who criticizes the John Birch Society may be liable to an accusation of pro-communism because the organization itself makes anti-communism its strong suit.

The John Birch Society members, whether they hold membership in Macon or elsewhere, may not agree but we believe:

That radical changes in our present democratic system would be harmful;

The churches and colleges are not rotten to the core with communism but rather that more than 99 per cent are composed of and run by loyal Americans;

That our friends and neighbors are not Communists and the fact that they may disagree with us or with others on certain issues does not make them communistic;

That the American government is sound and that our political leaders, while some may be unwise or in a few cases venal, are nevertheless patriotic servers of freedom's cause;

That the silence of fear is unAmerican, whether imposed by the right or imposed by the left;

And that those who would "save" us by using methods admittedly adapted from the Communists should be watched as carefully and viewed with as much skepticism as the Communists themselves.

2



# John Birch a Hero? Comrade Says Yes

LOS ANGELES, April 3 UP—  
Different views are voiced today  
on the death of John Birch, for

whom the right wing John Birch  
Society was named.

Birch, then an Army captain,  
was killed Aug. 25, 1945, while on  
an OSS intelligence mission in  
central China.

In Billings, Mont., radio-TV ex-  
ecutive Joseph Sample — who  
served in the same OSS outfit as  
Birch — said in an interview:

"There was no real object les-  
son in Birch's death and cer-  
tainly no glory."

In Los Angeles, stockbroker  
William P. Weiss Jr. — onetime  
OSS officer who made up the mis-  
sion on which Birch was killed—  
said:

"Certainly John was just as  
much a hero as any other Ameri-  
can soldier who died for his coun-  
try."

AND IN Pasadena, a Los An-  
geles suburb, manufacturer Gus-  
tav J. Krause — another war-  
time comrade of Birch — said:

"He brought about his own  
death. He didn't die the hero he  
was supposed to have died."

The John Birch Society, under  
fire from some national maga-  
zines, and newspapers and some  
congressmen, has been accused  
of using fascist tactics in its self-  
appointed task of fighting com-  
munism.

Birch, a missionary's son who  
spoke fluent Chinese, was shot by  
the leader of a group of Com-  
munist Chinese.

Sample, president of KOOK and  
KOOK-TV in Billings, said Birch's  
patrol ran into "a force of Chi-  
nese Reds. The Chinese were un-  
derstandably disturbed by what  
seemed to them an unwarranted  
intrusion of their area and de-  
manded an explanation.

"Capt. Birch chose to bluff his  
way out of a difficult situation.

Harsh words led to insults and  
insults to arrogance. . . ."

WEISS, who lives in suburban  
Alhambra, said:

"He (Birch) was risking his  
life over and above the normal  
hazards required of our services  
during the war on a volunteer  
basis. . . . Unfortunately, he was  
not as skilled as he should have  
been. But he certainly is just as  
much a hero, as he died for his  
country in trying conditions."

Said Krause:

"The Chinese Communists  
would fire at the drop of a hat.  
Because of Birch's background  
and his long life in China  
he threw his weight around. . . .  
He was the type of fellow who  
was not a military man but was  
recruited because of his language  
ability."

"There were many men who  
gave their lives — thousands of  
Americans who were much great-  
er heroes. But Birch operated on  
the fact that he knew the Chinese  
language and had lived in China."

The Atlanta Journal  
April 3, 1961  
Editor: JACK SPALDING  
RE:

AT File: 100-5857 -

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# Birch Decorated— Twice as U.S. Agent

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army made public Tuesday extracts from the service record of Capt. John M. Birch, whose name was adopted as that of an ultra-rightist organization whose founder has called former President Dwight D. Eisenhower an agent of the Communist conspiracy.

The record shows Birch twice was decorated, in part for behind-the-lines intelligence work in China during World War II.

## LEGION OF MERIT

One citation released by the Army was for the award of the Legion of Merit on July 17, 1944, and the other was for an Oak Leaf Cluster conferred posthumously on Jan. 8, 1946.

While saying Birch was killed on Aug. 25, 1945—10 days after the war ended—the extract shed no light on statements by members of the Birch society that he was slain by Chinese Communists.

Robert Welch, the retired Massachusetts candy manufacturer who founded the Birch Society, has called Birch "the first casualty in the third world war between the Communists and the ever-shrinking free world."

## SLAIN BY REDS

The Army extract does not say how Birch was killed, or mention the Communists. It doesn't even say where he died, but an Army spokesman acknowledged it was in China.

Birch was a Baptist missionary who worked in China before the U. S. war with Japan and was commissioned in the Army Air Corps after the fighting began. He was 27 when he died.

His mother, Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, Ga., has said the first official report received by Birch's family said he had been killed by stray bullets, but that it later was confirmed Birch was slain by the Chinese Communists.

Welch has contended the facts in the Birch case were suppressed for some time by what he called pro-Communist groups in the United States.

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### Pulse of the Public

## **We Need a Sound Policy for Dealing With John Birch Society---One Based on Facts**

Fitzgerald--It is human nature to condemn, or at least to shy away from any extremist group--and yet, it is the radical, not the conservative, who usually has his way. Because of these two facts, most people agree that we need a sound policy for dealing with the John Birch type of society. But how can a rational policy be formulated if we do not know the facts?

All we know, or rather all we think we know, about the John Birch Society has come from hearsay or similarly unreliable sources. The fraternal secretive-

ness of this particular organization is, of course, a contributing factor to this situation.

Whether or not this group uses subversive methods and adheres to un-American principles will never be known so long as the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee remain silent and seemingly disinterested in the issue.

I am firmly convinced that the John Birch Society and all other ultra-right-wing organizations demand an immediate and full-scale congressional investigation.

JOHN D. McCORD III.

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The Atlanta Constitution  
April 5, 1961  
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON  
RE:

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## The Birchers Are Here

WHEN AMERICA woke up, it woke up with a start. A start of disgust, surprise and alarm at the tactics being practiced by the John Birch Society. This semi-secret organization has now been revealed for what it is: a society of disciplined members who boast they intend to use communistic methods to fight communism and save America.

The director of the FBI, the U. S. Attorney General, various members of the U. S. House and Senate, newspapers and individuals have expressed concern over those who aggravate disagreements, encourage distrust, attempt to weaken our schools and churches, and recklessly accuse those who don't follow certain radical principles of being Communist dupes. Some of those who have so spoken have specifically named the John Birch Society. Others have left no doubt that they were zeroing in on organizations such as the Birchers.

Is this something that is happening in California or in Vermont? Is this some organization which we need not worry about because it could never bring discord and sow its seeds of suspicion in our community? The answer is a thunderous "No!" The Birchers are here now. There is a chapter in Macon. There are John Birch Society members, even if some may be ashamed to admit it, in our own city.

One may wonder if the Birchers

have worked their smears here. One recalls the controversy over the Foreign Policy Association's furnishing of background material for the Great Decisions program sponsored by the Macon Council on World Affairs. One knows that at least one Bircher was in a group which sought to have the Bibb County grand jury condemn and cast doubt on the program. There may have been others. It is not easy to find out since the John Birch Society is a secretive group.

Whatever or whoever may have been behind the attempted sabotage of the Great Decisions studies of world affairs in this community, the results must have delighted the hearts of the Birchers. The timid dropped out of the study groups. The illogical agreed that it would be foolish to study both sides of an issue. The fanatical professed to see a Communist behind practically every other bedpost in Macon. The faint-hearted wanted no part of anything which might be controversial.

Those left were the Great Decisions participants who refused to be intimidated by aspersions, or bullied by officialdom, or to have dictated to them what they could or could not study and discuss as free citizens of a free nation.

Thank God there are more of them—in Macon and in America—than there are members of the John Birch Society.

REC MAON (GA.) NEWS  
DATE 4-5-61  
RE: John Birch Society  
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# Beware of Vigilante Action, Hoover Warns In Reply to Questions About Birch Society

"In combating Communism we must beware of vigilante action," FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told The Macon News today in reply to questions about the John Birch Society.

In answer to a letter from The News citing several quotations from the "Blue Book" of the Birch Society by its founder, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., Hoover wrote as follows:

"While the endeavors of private citizens with regard to combating the menace of the Communist conspiracy must be given our most urgent encouragement, I have always cautioned against confusing Communism with legitimate dissent on controversial issues. In combating Communism we must beware of vigilante action.

"We must also guard against the tendency to characterize as Communists those who disagree with us or who advocate unorthodox or unlawful beliefs. Of

course, it is the responsibility and duty of our citizens to report to the FBI any instance of subversion which comes to their attention."

After citing the Welch quotations and others from Hoover's own book, "Masters of Deceit," The News had asked Hoover, "Is our entire government and society infiltrated and activated by Communists and Communist sympathizers as Mr. Welch obviously believes? Should we Americans organize societies to fight Communists by use of their own methods, or should we, as your book suggests, report any information we have of subversive activities to the FBI and leave it to your organization to carry out the investigation?"

His reply was similar to an editorial the Federal Bureau of Investigation director wrote in the current issue of the FBI bulletin which did not mention the Birch Society by name but apparently stemmed from the increasing controversy about it across the country.

Hoover, in his book, said, "We must be absolutely certain that our fight against Communism is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation. . . . Too often I have seen cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were 'fighting Communism' by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'Communist' on anybody who happened to be different from them or to have ideas with which they did not agree."

In Massachusetts, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Catholic archbishop of Boston, spoke out in a speech for Welch, describing him as a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

But the Cardinal said nevertheless that anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities." [Welch, in a privately published book-length letter, said Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." He denied last week that he had called the former president a "card carrying Communist" and said quotation of his letter was "unethical."]

"Anyone who is fighting Communism today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism—that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate said in an address to business and professional men in North Eaton, Mass.

Earlier, a spokesman for Cardinal Cushing said he had "no comment" on a letter he wrote on April 28, 1960, to C. M. Crawford of Los Angeles, Calif., endorsing the John Birch Society. The letter is reprinted in a booklet recently released by the society from its Belmont, Mass., headquarters.

"Replying to your recent letter," Cardinal Cushing wrote, "I beg to advise you that I do not know of any more dedicated anti-Com-

munist in the country than Robert Welch.

"I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society."

Meanwhile, in Columbus, Paul K. McKenney Jr., vice president of Swift Manufacturing Co., of Columbus and president of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association, acknowledged that he has endorsed the John Birch Society. He is one of three Georgians listed on a "committee of endorsers" in the back of the same society booklet in which Cardinal Cushing's letter is published.

McKenney added, however, "That does not mean that I subscribe to all of its activities or programs. But I do favor the purpose of the society, which is anti-Communist." He would make no other comment.

The two other Georgia endorsers, Attorney R. Carter Pittman of Dalton and Real Estate Man Hugh H. Armstrong of Savannah, earlier had acknowledged their endorsements though both expressed disagreement with Welch's charge that Eisenhower is a Communist while agreeing with much of the balance of his program and sentiments.

REC-12606 (00.) NEWS  
DATE 4-6-61  
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## Cardinal Cushing Says Birch Head Is 'Fearless'

NORTH EASTON, Mass., April 6 (AP)—Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston says Robert Welch, founder and leader of the controversial John Birch society, is a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

Nevertheless, anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities," the Cardinal said in a speech.

"Anyone who is fighting Com-

munist today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism — that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate told business and professional men.

Demands recently have been made in Congress for an investigation of Welch and the society he heads, following disclosure of Welch letters in which he refers to former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower as tools of Communism.

The Atlanta Journal  
Atlanta, Georgia  
April 6, 1961  
Editor: Jack Spalding  
Atlanta Division

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## Birch Unit Ridiculous, Says Robert Kennedy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy said Thursday he thinks the John Birch Society is ridiculous.

"I don't think anybody should really pay too much attention to them," Kennedy told his first news conference when he was asked about members of the ultra-rightist organization headed by Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

"I think they make no contribution to the 'fight against

communism here in the United States, and in fact I think if anything they are a hindrance," he said.

The John Birch Society has drawn criticism in Congress and elsewhere for statements by its founder, Welch, describing Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and other eminent leaders as tools of communists.

The Atlanta Constitution  
Atlanta, Georgia  
April 7, 1961  
Editor: Eugene Patterson  
Atlanta Division

AT 100-5857

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**Arthur Krock**

## Ridicule Can Kill The Birch Society

WASHINGTON—The attacks on and defenses of the John Birch Society, including a call for investigation that Congress very sensibly seems to have no intention to heed, support a growing impression that ridicule, as Atty. Gen. Kennedy has indicated, is becoming a lost art in American public controversies. For no citizens, however well-meaning, have made their movement and its followers a more vulnerable target to destruction through ridicule than have the founder and some of the prominent members of the John Birch Society.

The reason why senators and others are bracketing it, as a Fascist menace to American institutions, with the international communism the group was organized to combat, may be the overpowering gravity of these troubled times.

Because of a recent spate of newspaper publications about the Birchites, the direct aspersions by their founder, Robert Welch, on the loyalty of President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and others is now a matter of common knowledge. Millions of citizens instead of a few are aware that a number of outstanding leaders in American industry and education joined the organization under Welch's leadership with full knowledge he was the author of these diatribes. It was indicated in one expose that some of these leaders subscribed to these aspersions, which Welch has since recanted under fire.

The emasculation of the Liberty League by President Franklin D. Roosevelt was achieved by making the general public laugh at it. This history is only recalled to emphasize that point, not to imply the slightest comparison between that truly patriotic, distinguished and

responsible organization with the John Birch Society. It was formed on the conviction that individual rights were being steadily encroached on by the New Deal, with state socialism the unavoidable consequence, if not the goal of extreme New Dealers.

When the league membership was published, with its glittering galaxy of multimillionaires, President Roosevelt instantly saw its real vulnerability was to ridicule. Noting, as Rexford Tugwell has recorded, that "the wealthiest and most powerful members of the industrial elite and their lawyers" described their mission as an effort to reclaim the freedom of the American people, he publicly inquired with an innocent air "just what liberties the DuPonts and General Motors had lost." In the same vein the President discussed the league at a news conference. Speaking at first seriously, then with irony, he offered the mild opinion that it stressed private property protection at the expense of the protection of the "average citizen." The league's tenet, he said, was "love thy God (which he said was private property) but forget thy neighbor."

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Atlanta Division

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# JAVITS ASKS BIRCH PROBE

PRINCETON, N.J., April 8 (AP)—Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., Saturday called for a Congressional investigation of the militantly conservative John Birch Society.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the Princeton University symposium on world affairs, Javits said:

"The John Birch Society has now come along to remind us again that the principles of a

free society can be eroded from the extreme right as well as the extreme left. Can we be complacent when men of position and influence seriously fight for the impeachment of Supreme Court (chief) Justice Earl Warren? Or when its leader is a man who has seriously contended that President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy? Or when a secret group purports to fix a Communist label on people who don't suit

them? They undermine the very foundations of the republic because they jeopardize the confidence of the people in their tried and proven leaders.

"That is why, just as I have encouraged the continued exposure of ultra-leftist movements, I hope there will be a continued exposure of the John Birch Society—even to the extent of a congressional investigation."

JAVITS ALSO dwelt on racial discrimination, which he said has "become an international peace issue . . . vital to our national security." He said the United States could meet "this grave challenge" by:

1. Being completely honest about the extent of its human relations problems.
2. Passing federal laws to help speed up public desegregation.
3. An uncompromising stand by the President "on every occasion

and in every detail" to demonstrate that the principles of equality are our national policy.

4. An executive order against discrimination in federally assisted housing.

Javits said the "ultra-conservative approach is dangerously inadequate" in the field of civil rights.

Ultra-conservatism, he said, "would launch no new initiatives in the civil rights fields. It would oppose a tightening of Senate rules against the filibuster—the South's potent weapon in battling civil rights legislation."

The Atlanta Journal and  
The Atlanta Constitution  
Atlanta, Georgia  
April 9, 1961  
Sunday Editor: Joel Huff  
Atlanta Division

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Close-up

## Are Reds Using the John Birch Society?

Recently I wrote a column defending the minority opinion of the Supreme Court in a couple of First Amendment cases and another column questioning the activities of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The columns prompted several long and critical letters from a former Georgian now living in Washington.

The writer of those letters has made a thorough study of Communist tactics in America. He is firmly convinced that Red subversion is the country's greatest threat, that critics of the committees investigating the threat aid and comfort the subversives, that the Supreme Court justices who insist the Bill of Rights offers "absolute" freedom to one and all are mistaken, and so forth.

He also thinks that Communists may be using the John Birch Society to make all anti-Communists suspect.

If you were a Communist you would certainly want to discredit all your enemies. It would be



ideal for you if people ever got to the point where they ignored all charges that "so and so's a Communist."

And people may well get that way if they continually see that cries of "Communist" are not well-founded, not reasonable, not honest. Sooner or later people are going to equate the charge of subversion with mere irresponsible disagreement. Then when a respectable organization points out a real Communist, the people aren't going to see him.

When a man tells you Gen. Eisenhower is a subversive you don't believe it. If he keeps telling you, sooner or later you may get to the point that even when the Justice department comes along, points out a guy with a black beard and a bomb and tells you he's a Communist, you won't believe that either.

Even if the John Birch Society didn't help the Communist cause, even if it hurt it, it wouldn't be a very American organization. The ends don't justify the means in this country.

But it well may be that the worse sin the John Birchers will commit is that they will so discredit anti-communism, the Reds in America will be able to operate with greater ease than ever before.—TED LIPPMAN.

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Atlanta Division

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# **Not in John Birch, Ex-KKK Chief Says**

Clearwater—There has been some attempt to tie me up with the John Birch Society. When I quit I meant exactly what I said, and I am going to join no society — I am now writing a book, The Wasted Twenty Years.

I take note of the people who belong to the John Birch Society and find them to be the Uptown Ku Klux Klan or the Parlor Fascists, the same groups who organized the Citizens Councils, the Committees for Constitutional Government — the States Rights Parties and many other so-called Right Wing organizations.

I broke away when I supported Kennedy for President and I still think Kennedy will bring this country out of this depression. I am strongly supporting all of his housing bill as this bill only loans the American people the money to rebuild our country.

Once the years I have belonged to and fought with many groups, but it now seems to me that if the groups who are spending so much time and money fighting each other: the NAACP, the Democrats, the Republicans, the Unions, the White Supremists, the Black Supremists, the churches . . . and many others would spend as much time and money getting together and trying to understand each other we would have a much better country without all the belly-aching.

**BILL HENDRIX**

Editor's Note: Mr. Hendrix once was Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida.

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After citing the Welch quotations and others from Hoover's own book, "Masters of Deceit," The News had asked Hoover, "Is our entire government and society infiltrated and activated by Communists and Communist sympathizers as Mr. Welch obviously believes? Should we Americans organize societies to fight Communists by use of their own methods, or should we, as your book suggests, report any information we have of subversive activities to the FBI and leave it to your organization to carry out the investigation?"

His reply was similar to an editorial the Federal Bureau of Investigation director wrote in the current issue of the FBI bulletin which did not mention the Birch Society by name but apparently stemmed from the increasing controversy about it across the country.

Hoover, in his book, said, "We must be absolutely certain that our fight [against Communism] is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation . . . Too often I have seen cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were 'fighting Communism' by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'Communist' on anybody who happened to be different from them or to have ideas with which they did not agree."

In Massachusetts, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Catholic archbishop of Boston, spoke out in a speech for Welch, describing him as a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

But the Cardinal said nevertheless that anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities." [Welch, in a privately published book-length letter, said Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." He denied last week that he had called the former president a "card carrying Communist" and said quotation of his letter was "unethical.")

"Anyone who is fighting Communism today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism—that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate said in an address to business and professional men in North Eaton, Mass.

Earlier, a spokesman for Cardinal Cushing said he had "no comment" on a letter he wrote on April 28, 1960, to C. M. Crawford of Los Angeles, Calif., endorsing the John Birch Society. The letter is reprinted in a booklet recently released by the society from its Belmont, Mass., headquarters.

"Replying to your recent letter," Cardinal Cushing wrote, "I beg to advise you that I do not know of any more dedicated anti-Com-

munist in the country than Robert Welch.

"I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society."

Meanwhile, in Columbus Paul K. McKenney Jr., vice president of Swift Manufacturing Co., of Columbus and president of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association, acknowledged that he has endorsed the John Birch Society. He is one of three Georgians listed on a "committee of endorsers" in the back of the same society booklet in which Cardinal Cushing's letter is published.

McKenney added, however, "That does not mean that I subscribe to all of its activities or programs. But I do favor the purpose of the society, which is anti-Communist." He would make no other comment.

The two other Georgia endorsers, Attorney R. Carter Pittman of Dalton and Real Estate Man Hugh H. Armstrong of Savannah, earlier had acknowledged their endorsements though both expressed disagreement with Welch's charge that Eisenhower is a Communist while agreeing with much of the balance of his program and sentiments.

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## Birch Group Has 2 Secrets

LOS ANGELES, April 10 (AP)—  
The founder of the controversial

John Birch Society says it isn't  
a secret society — and has only  
two secrets:

"We don't tell how many mem-  
bers we have, and we'll not tell  
the names of our members."

ROBERT WELCH of Belmont,  
Mass., gave this explanation when  
interviewed on a local television  
program Sunday night.

Welch appeared with Dr. James  
W. Fifield Jr., minister of the  
First Congregational Church of  
Los Angeles, on the latter's week-  
ly program on a local TV chan-  
nel.

SOME congressmen have called  
for investigation of the organiza-  
tion. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Ken-  
nedy said last week he thinks the  
society is ridiculous, that its mem-  
bers "make no contribution . . .  
to the fight against communism  
here in the United States, and, in  
fact, I think if anything they are  
a hindrance."

The California Senate fact-find-  
ing committee on un-American ac-  
tivities announced Saturday it has  
scheduled an inquiry into the so-  
ciety for some time after the leg-  
islature adjourns in June.

FIFIELD, remarking that the  
society is a national organization,  
suggested the proper place for an  
investigation is in the federal gov-  
ernment.

Welch said he would welcome a  
national investigation by "proper-  
ly constituted authority . . . either

one of the committees of the  
House or the Senate."

DR. FIFIELD asked "whether  
the Communist conspiracy could  
have made progress without the  
unknowing connivance of people  
high in government."

"I don't think so," Welch re-  
plied. "Certainly there has been  
a considerable amount of conniv-  
ance within our government."

The pastor told Welch: "I pre-  
dict that the present hysteria

about the John Birch Society will  
result in a million members for  
your society . . . God bless you."

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## GROUP SILENT ON NAMES

# Birch Chapters Here?

By MARGARET SHANNON

The headquarters of the John Birch Society in Belmont, Mass., says the organization has chapters in Atlanta. But it will not say who leads them or who belongs.

An Atlanta woman, who says she belongs to the home, or Belmont, chapter, deplores "horrible reporting" about the society. But she declines to name any local chapter leader or member who possibly could tell the society's side of the story.

A Georgia Tech faculty member who disclaims Birch membership, but considers the society praiseworthy, is sure the organization is active in Atlanta. But he does not call its members by name.

A suburban newspaper editorializes that "there is a local chapter of the John Birch Society, and its membership includes eminent Atlantans." If names were.

SUCH IS the nature of the John Birch Society locally that its would-be foes are hard put to pin-

point their target and its would-be friends are hesitant to give credit where credit is due.

But, liked or disliked, it emerges as one of the most intriguing of organizations in the Atlanta area espousing the anti-Communist cause and as a potential cohesive force for diverse groups and individuals interested in the cause.

There are organizations and individuals in the Atlanta area devoted to fighting communism as they see it in the churches, the schools, mental health programs, fluoridation, the United Nations and integration.

Some devote long hours to research, speech-making, letter-writing and telephoning. They issue and distribute pamphlets and tracts. They listen to radio broadcasts and circulate petitions.

THEY ARE PROUD to call themselves and one another patriots.

The integration issue has been a rallying point for some of them and has provided a sort of bond

of fellowship. Now has come the John Birch Society with a broader base. The society is concerned with the integration issue as a possible troublemaking tool of the Communists and with the impeachment of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren — a goal advocated by many segregationists also — but also concerned with big government, high taxes and Communist influences at Vassar College, among other things.

Atlanta restaurateur Lester Maddox, head of segregationist Georgians Unwilling to Surrender, said he is not a Birch member, but "I'm very interested." He noted the names of some of the society's national council members and commented, "You can't say they're rabble, can you?"

THE REPUTATION of some of the men linked with the society is plainly a drawing point. The three Georgians listed as members of a committee of endorsers are successful in their fields.

One of them, Paul K. McKen-

ney Jr. of Columbus, is president of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers' Association. He is vice president and comptroller of Swift Manufacturing Co., one of Columbus' largest industries.

Another, Carter Pittman of Dalton, is a lawyer and a frequent writer on constitutional questions. He is a former president of the Georgia States Rights Council. The third is Hugh H. Armstrong of Savannah, a contractor and developer.

Mr. McKenney is a Birch member, and Mr. Armstrong is the co-ordinator for the society's four or five Savannah chapters. Mr. Pittman says he is not a member.

CONTROVERSY about the society has centered principally on attacks by its founder, Robert Welch, on the loyalty of American leaders; its strong views, which equate increased defense spending, federal aid to education and many other items with Communist

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activity, and its secrecy and tactics.

Mrs. H. Dillon Winship of 3770 Peachtree Road, N.E., who says she is a member of the Birch home chapter, terms much of what has been published as "horrible reporting."

She says that the society is "the one patriotic group that's going to be able to accomplish anything."

Coming from her, that is praise indeed, for Mrs. Winship is a member of the board of directors of the Church League of America, the organization headed by Edgar Bundy of Wheaton, Ill., and dedicated chiefly to spreading his word about Communist infiltration of the churches.

Mrs. Winship said that she has had a very interesting life since she discovered the Church League of America.

\*\*\*  
**WHEN SHE DID**, she journeyed to Wheaton to see Mr. Bundy. She is a believer in checking things herself and advocates that other people do so also.

She said she has checked the John Birch Society "all the way down the line." She knows Mr. Welch, too, having met him "years ago."

Mrs. Winship is sure the society has some members here, but she says the role of a fighter against communism is "frankly quite dangerous" and she would not want to place any persons in hazard by identifying them as members.

"We all over the United States do it as individuals," Mrs. Winship said. "The John Birch Society does not come out and tell me to fight for any set thing at all. The John Birch Society is not interested in half the things I'm interested in."

\*\*\*  
**A MEMBER** of the society's staff in Belmont said there are Birch chapters in Atlanta. But he said it is against policy for the headquarters to name names, though individuals may identify themselves as members if they wish.

Mr. Welch, who has invited a congressional investigation of the society, has said none of the

members would take the Fifth Amendment.

He is the originator of the policy of not revealing names of members and it is set forth in the society's "Blue Book," the manual which delineates the organization's ends and means.

2

**LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

# **What Did Comment About Birch Mean?**

The Editors: It took our new Attorney General (of all things) Bobby Kennedy about five minutes to stammer out about a dozen words to the effect that the John Birch Society is ridiculous, humorous and a hindrance.

He offered no explanation of what he meant. Of course, the words ridiculous and humorous do not particularly cry for explanation, whether aptly employed or not. But his use of the word hindrance did beg explaining.

Did he mean that the anti-Communist John Birch Society is a hindrance to the Department of Justice and the FBI in investigating communism in the United States, or in exposing or bringing to justice any American Communist or group of Communists?

If that is what he meant, in what way is the John Birch Society a hindrance? More important, what has the Department of Justice, including the FBI, done in the past seven years to combat communism inside the United States?

As far as is known to the public, at least, the only meaningful or resultful fight being made against communism inside the nation is the hamstringing one being waged by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

RUDY SIMPSON.

Atlanta.

Perhaps he meant that by the time everyone with a different point of view had been branded "Communist" there would be few left unlabeled to investigate them. Or perhaps he just meant what he said. The Editors

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# Birch Unit Helps Reds, Senate Told

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Robert Welch, head of the controversial John Birch Society, was denounced on the Senate floor Wednesday for suggesting the Protestant clergy has been infiltrated by Communists.

Sen. Hale McGee, D-Wyo., told the Senate that Welch's latest charge was a "slurring" attack which was both "ridiculous" and an aid to Communist propaganda. McGee termed members of the conservative society "twisted, distorted, sick people" who he said are "afraid of new ideas, afraid of freedom."

## DRAWS SENATE FIRE

Three other senators joined in criticizing Welch and his organization.

Sen. Milton R. Young, R-N.D., first to call the Senate's attention to attacks by the society against former President Eisenhower and other national leaders, placed more material about the group in the Congressional Record.

The material included 15 pages from Welch's book, "The Politician," which embraced his early charge that Eisenhower had been "consciously serving the Communist conspiracy all of his adult life."

## CITES IKE ATTACK

Young said that since the book never was formally published, "some members of the society doubt its existence." He said some members are "not aware of the vicious charges in this book."

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, Mont., supporting Young's stand, told the Senate that Welch's charges of pro-Communism against Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and others would be considered by any American as "a slur on our country."

## JAVITS ASKS PROBE

Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., reiterated that he felt the John Birch Society should be investigated by a Senate committee.

McGee, who has spoken against Welch and the Birch Society in previous Senate debate, noted that Welch had observed that while Protestant ministers can't become Communists, Communists "can become Protestant ministers."

"Nothing could be more ridiculous than to believe that students of theology ... the Protestant ministry ... would be handmaidens of the Communist cause," he said.

"Nothing could suit Communist propaganda more completely than to suggest that the Protestant ministry is being infiltrated by Communists."

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# 'Non-Member' Hails John Birch Society

Atlanta — Referring to letter from James Fritz Salley appearing in your April 1st issue concerning the John Birch Society:

I do not belong to this society, however, I am familiar with the record of John Birch, also familiar with methods of pro-Communists, fellow-travelers, and the Communist Party. The publication edited by Robert Welch, entitled "American Opinion", should be read by every red-blooded patriotic hundred per cent American.

Mr. Birch's mother said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Robert Welch's organization and are proud for the society to bear their son's name. They should be. In my opinion this makes Mr. Salley anything but a friend of John Birch.

Who betrayed John Birch into the hands of the Chinese Communists? Why not find out and publish it in your columns?

I doubt Mr. Welch will be investigated. I hope he will be as he is in position to make some people lose sleep.

W. D. FERRIS.

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# Patriots, Birch or Not

By MARGARET SHANNON

The John Birch Society, controversial anti-Communist organization, has won a welcome from industrious watchdogs of the public's patriotism in the Atlanta area.

Lane Mitchell, director of the ceramics department at Georgia Tech, who has made more than 200 speeches in the past two years on the Communist menace, is critical of criticism of the Birch Society.

Dr. Mitchell said he is not a member, but he has obtained and read the literature of the society, including its "Blue Book," in which the founder, Robert Welch states the organization's aims and strategy.

He said he also is a subscriber to "American Opinion," Mr. Welch's monthly magazine. In none of the material, Dr. Mitchell says, has he found any obser-

vations with which any patriot could, in his view, take issue.

DR. MITCHELL said he understands the John Birch Society to be primarily a letter-writing organization and he does not see how anyone can object to such activity on the part of patriots.

Letter-writing campaigns are, as a matter of fact, one of numerous methods set forth by Mr. Welch. Other suggestions include setting up reading rooms, distributing literature, organizing "fronts — little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts," circulating petitions, heckling speakers who back programs the society opposes, arranging speaking appointments for Birchers and taking part in politics.

The purpose of the society, as stated in the "Blue Book," is "to promote less government,

more responsibility and a better world," with the immediate objective of "stopping the Communists and destroying their conspiracy, or at least breaking its grip on our government and shattering its power within the United States."

Dr. Mitchell appears not to share Mr. Welch's views on former President Eisenhower as given in a book titled "The Politician," which is not in general circulation.

In "The Politician," the Birch Society founder accuses many top members of the Eisenhower administration of being a part of the Communist conspiracy and adds:

"While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct. But my firm belief that Dwight Ei-

senhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Dr. Mitchell thinks the former President is "a noble gentleman."

MRS. MARTHA ANDREWS, of 692 Sunnybrook Dr., Decatur, executive secretary of the Voice of Liberty, a religious Red hunter, also endorses the John Birchers, though she says she is not one.

Mrs. Andrews says the John Birch Society has attracted interest and admiration among anti-Communist crusaders of her acquaintance in the Atlanta area.

She points out that two radio

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# Bircher Says God, Rebellion Combat Reds

An official of the John Birch Society told a group of advertising men Thursday that God and rebellion are the answers to the Communist menace, which he described as existing not just in Russia, but in the United States, too.

Thomas Anderson, publisher of a farm magazine and member of the national council of the

Story on local manifestations of the John Birch Society on Page 18.

Highly conservative Birch Society, spoke to a luncheon meeting of the Atlanta Advertising Institute.

AMONG THE things he condemned were foreign aid, the farm program, enslavement of peoples, U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, personal income tax, U.S. embassy staffers overseas, and Negro singer Sammy Davis Junior.

He came out in favor of J. Edgar Hoover, putting Christ back into Christmas, the right of association, firm faith in God, and the right to vote so long as voters pass intelligence tests.

HE ALSO TOLD the advertising men that he is strongly in favor of the currently controversial John Birch Society.

He called it "the best movement that I've seen to alert Americans to the danger" of socialism.

MR. ANDERSON'S talk often drew laughter and brought applause a couple of times as he compared Washington to an assembly plant for a certain part of a horse's anatomy and recalled a conversation with a U.S. envoy abroad in which he commented on the "pinks, punks and perverts" in the foreign service.

The group quieted when he said that America can be restored to its proper status by "rebellious patriots demanding a return to home rule." He said advertising men in particular can help, since they are in a position of influencing thought.

IN CONCLUSION, he told the advertising men that the love of God will serve to destroy "this organized religion of hate" which he found on a recent four-day trip to Russia.

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ANONYMOUS CALLS NOT NEW

# Birch Hecklers at Work?

By MARGARET SHANNON

Some Atlantans who have been subjected to heckling, abusive letters and annoying telephone calls about political, religious or social views think they detect the influence of the John Birch Society here.

For one thing, they see a shift in emphasis from racist to Communist themes. They note a tendency of persons who proclaim themselves to be patriots to consider contrary views disloyal at best and Communist at worst.

METHODS now being credited, rightly or wrongly, to Birch influence are not new or exclusive with the society and have been used by both sides in many controversies. A much-publicized example here was the suggestion by Roy V. Harris of Augusta, president of the Georgia States Rights Council, for segregationists to

telephone token integrationists and open-schools advocates at all hours day and night to harass them.

Mrs. H. Dillon Winship of 3770 Peachtree Rd., NE, a Birch Society member, insists that Birchers do not indulge in anonymous telephone calls.

"They call up and they give their names and they state their views," she said. "They do not identify themselves as members of the John Birch Society, but that is not necessary."

Robert Welch, the Belmont, Mass., man who founded the society, says in his "Blue Book" that the organization needs "disciplined pullers at the oars and not passengers in the boat."

And he said that while this is reminiscent of the Communist principle of "the dedicated few," the society is "willing to draw on all successful experience in organization matters so long as it does not involve any sacrifice of morality in the means used to achieve an end."

Mr. Welch also has expressed the view that some "mean and dirty" tactics are all right because Communists are meaner and dirtier.

THE BIRCH founder supplements his "Blue Book" suggestions with a monthly bulletin of instructions. In one last September, for example, he urged Birchers to take over the Parent-Teacher Association. He wrote:

"Join your local PTA at the beginning of the school year, get your conservative friends to do likewise and go to work to take it over.

"You will run into real battles against determined leftists who have had everything their way.

"But it is time we went on the offensive to make such groups the instruments of conservative purposes, with the same vigor and determination that the liberals have used with the opposite aims.

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"When you and your friends get the local PTA group straightened out, move up the ladder as soon as you can to exert a wider influence. And don't let the dirty tactics of the opposition get you down."

One Atlanta area PTA got stirred up recently about a talk by a speaker whose subject was billed in advance as an explanation of Communist infiltration of schools, textbooks and the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE SPEAKER was Dr. Henry G. Stelling, a Northside physician whom a Georgia Tech faculty member terms "the epitome of patriotism." Lane Mitchell, director of the Tech ceramics department and a frequent speaker on communism, describes Dr. Stelling in admiration as "a red-headed fellow who gets very excited and really tears into this thing."

After he tore into it at the Liberty-Guinn School PTA, one parent went to the FBI and asked for a check of certain allegations of Communist leanings. He reported at the next PTA meeting that the check did not support the allegations, and the PTA passed a motion regretting "any injury to innocent people and organizations."

REPEATED ATTEMPTS by an Atlanta Journal reporter to arrange to see and talk to Dr. Stelling have failed so far.

The methods and materials used by some of the organizations and individuals here who consider themselves patriotic often are overlapping and duplicating, and it is sometimes difficult for the subjects of their objections to know the source.

For instance, Birch head Welch suggests heckling. But Dr. Roy O. McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church, cannot say for sure whether or not disputants who showed up at some sessions of a recent eight-week Wednesday night seminar he taught on communism and Christianity are Birch members, followers of fundamentalist radio evangelists or unattached zealots.

OCCASIONALLY even the patriots themselves become confused. One woman whose anti-Communist activities are aimed mainly at religion and integration was high in praise of a woman who, she said, was the backbone of opposition to a visit here by Dr. Edwin Dahlberg, immediate past president of the National Council of Churches. The first lady accused Dr. Dahlberg of Communist leanings.

Yes, indeed, said the second lady, she did oppose the Dahlberg visit. He was going to speak at her church, the First Baptist, and she knew the meeting would be integrated, since it was sponsored by the United Church Women, and sure enough it was integrated, and she is a segregationist.

What about Dr. Dahlberg? "I don't think he is a Communist," she said. "He's a minister, and—well, I just don't want integration in my church. If they're going to let them in during the week, they ought to do it on Sunday. Ought to be consistent about it."

One of the most vocal groups opposing the National Council of Churches is the Church League of America, whose Atlanta chapter is headed by Mrs. Winship, a member of the league's national board of directors. Mrs. Winship was active in the church league before she became a John Birchler and continues active in it.

The First Baptist Church was flooded with telephone calls protesting Dr. Dahlberg's appearance, and one anti-Dahlberg note showed up in the collection plate at the meeting where he spoke, an observance of the World Day of Prayer.

THE MORE VOCAL of the self-designated patriots are not averse to naming organizations and even individuals whose loyalty to God and country they question and they are great on documenting their charges.

An examination of their documentation shows that they resort frequently to published material which themselves are not documented. They quote freely from authorities, who in turn quote them as authorities.



\* \* \*

## Welch Can't 'Put Up' And He Can't Admit It

Robert Welch of the John Birch Society says there are 7,000 Communists or Communist sympathizers in the Protestant clergy.

A Methodist bishop says if there are the church will get rid of them. He asks Welch to supply him the names. He asks him in these words: "Get specific or else admit that you don't know what you are talking about."

Welch can't get specific because he doesn't know what he is talking about. But he can't admit he doesn't know what he is talking about and continue to be invited to lecture. So here's what he'll do. He'll make another charge—there are 7,000 Communists in the Boy Scouts or there are 7,000 Communists in the AFL-CIO or there are 7,000 Communists in the American Dental Association.

Americans are fond of the expression "put up or shut up." In a free society people can say what they will. When what they say is nonsense, when they don't "put up," American audiences see through them.

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# Georgia's Birch Backers

By MARGARET SHANNON

The three Georgians listed as members of a committee of endorsers of the John Birch Society include one who is very active in the organization, one who belongs, but is not actively promoting it and one who does not belong.

Dalton lawyer Carter Pittman, former president of the Georgia States Rights Council, is not a member and was placed on the committee of endorsers without his prior knowledge or consent.

"I discovered it in the Congressional Record after somebody told me about it," Mr. Pittman said, "but I wouldn't repudiate it even if I didn't know about it beforehand."

MR. PITTMAN said he has had some correspondence with Robert Welch, the retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer who founded the society and named it for a Georgian.

That Georgian, John Birch, is dead, but his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Birch, live on a farm near Macon. Mrs. Birch says she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with the organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

John Birch was a Baptist preacher who became a missionary to China and later served as an intelligence officer in World War II. He was killed in a Chinese village 10 days after V-J Day in 1945. Five years later, then Sen. William Knowland, California Republican, charged in a Senate speech that Chinese Communists had murdered him. He was 27 when he died.

None of the Georgia endorsers of the society appears to have been attracted to it, however, by the Georgia background of the man for whom it was named.

Mr. Pittman is particularly interested in the Birch Society campaign for impeachment of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren. The Dalton lawyer helped to write a Warren impeachment resolution adopted by the Georgia General Assembly in 1957.

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LATER he filed with the U.S. Senate internal security subcommittee a brief expanding the list of legal citations given in the resolution to support the contention that Justice Warren should be impeached.

Mr. Pittman says the John Birch Society now cites the materials prepared by him. He attributes the effectiveness of the society to its Warren impeachment move.

"They've got a letter-writing campaign on to congressmen to impeach Warren," Mr. Pittman said. "I don't think Warren can be impeached, but I think the campaign for it can help. It already has. I read somewhere the other day that it looks like Earl Warren has run under the bed."

"This impeachment campaign is good. An institution will die unless you give the members something to do, and Welch is smart enough to give them (John Birch Society members) something to do."

Mr. Pittman said "a good many members of the society" write him. He said after he noticed that his mail about the Birch Society began to increase, he wrote for literature about it.

ANOTHER of the Georgia endorsers of the society, Paul K. McKenney Jr., a Columbus textile executive, is a member of the home chapter at Belmont, Mass., and he says is not actively promoting it in the Columbus area. He said that so far as he knows there are no chapters in Columbus.

Mr. McKenney said he has known Mr. Welch on a personal basis for some years and has a high regard for him. He said he also has "similar feelings" about socialistic and Communistic trends.

The Columbus businessman said he finds interest in the conservative cause espoused by the Birch Society picking up. He cited as one evidence "the outstanding amount of attention given to Sen. Goldwater."

MR. WELCH has said Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Arizona Republican, would make a fine president. But at the December, 1958, meeting in Indianapolis that started the society off, he rejected Sen. Goldwater as a possible head of the organization and nominated himself.

"Does anybody in this room think there is any slightest chance of Barry Goldwater supplying the dynamic over-all leadership needed to save this country for anybody to be president of?" he said. "If so, I think he is still not fully aware of the nature and totality of the forces at work. For Goldwater will inevitably think and move in terms of political warfare."

Mr. Welch then suggested himself as head of the society.

FROM THAT meeting, a two-day affair to which a dozen men invited by Mr. Welch came, the John Birch Society began. It now has chapters in at least 34 states, has members in 50 states and aims at 100,000 membership by the end of this year.

The third Georgia member of the committee of endorsers is Hugh H. Armstrong, a Savannah builder. He is active in the society as its coordinator there.

Mr. Armstrong says Savannah has five or six chapters with 14 to 25 members each.

He also says that Savannah members "strongly endorse the loyalty and integrity of former President Eisenhower," whom Mr. Welch has referred to as a conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. Armstrong said members do not have to agree 100 per cent with Mr. Welch, but if they don't share most of his views, they ought to get out of the society.

HOW MUCH disagreement Mr. Welch will brook remains to be seen. In the "Blue Book," the guidebook of the society, he makes it clear that he intends to exercise authoritative control and expects loyalty.

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels," he says. "The men who join the John Birch Society during the next few months or few years are going to be doing so because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway."

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splinter following of their own inside the society."

Mr. Welch was born in North Carolina in 1899. He moved to Boston in 1919 and was in the candy manufacturing business until his retirement. The firm of which he was vice president in charge of sales and advertising had a subsidiary sales corporation in Atlanta.